

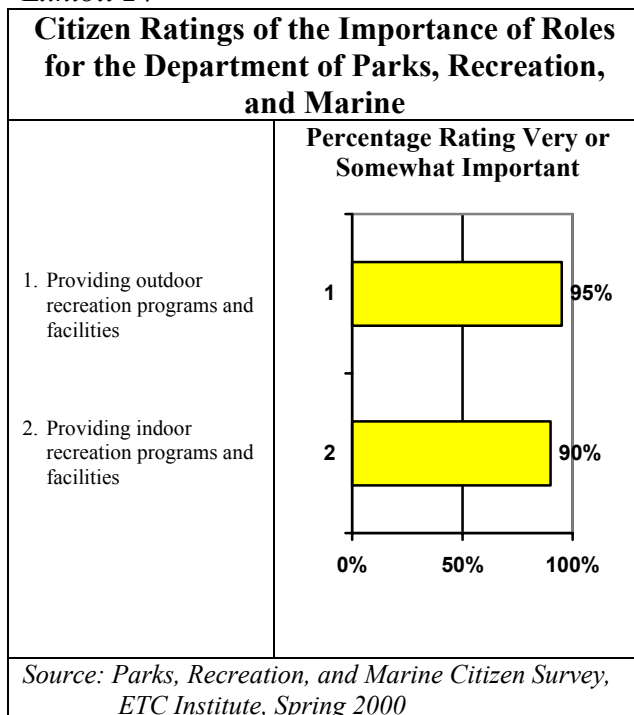


Goal 2: Meet Community Recreation Facility Needs

In developing its Citywide strategic plan, the City of Long Beach made neighborhoods a top priority. The first goal of the adopted plan is to “Build a strong network of healthy neighborhoods.” Sports and recreation facilities are a key component of a healthy neighborhood and are included in the strategic actions that the plan suggests to support this goal.

Providing sports and recreation facilities and amenities is also a role for the Department that is strongly supported by the residents of Long Beach. As the following exhibit shows, 95 percent of residents rate the role of providing outdoor recreation programs and facilities as either very or somewhat important for the Department. Nearly as many, 90 percent, rated the role of providing indoor recreation programs and facilities as either very or somewhat important for the Department.

Exhibit 24



The Department currently provides sports and recreation facilities to the Community including:

- ✓ Playgrounds
- ✓ Swimming Pools
- ✓ Tennis Courts
- ✓ Outdoor Basketball Courts
- ✓ Football / Soccer Fields
- ✓ Baseball / Softball Fields
- ✓ Community Recreation Centers

Target Service Levels

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine has developed and maintains recreation facilities throughout the City. Two factors are used to determine how well these facilities are meeting the needs of the Community – the number of residents served per facility and the area served by each facility.

The Department has developed target service levels for each of the types of recreation facilities it provides. These target service levels were developed considering the current service level, the specific needs of Long Beach residents, and national standards presented by the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA). The following chart shows the target service levels for Long Beach recreation facilities.

Exhibit 25

Long Beach Recreation Facilities Target Service Levels		
Type of Facility	Population Served	Service Area
Playgrounds	5,000	¼ mile
Swimming Pools	50,000	1 mile
Tennis Courts	7,500	½ mile
Basketball Courts	2,000	¼ mile
Football/Soccer Fields	5,000	1 mile
Baseball/Softball Fields	5,000	1 mile



As an example, the target service level for playgrounds is that the City would have one playground for every 5,000 residents, and would have a playground within one-quarter mile of every resident.

The Department has also developed a target service level for community recreation centers, which provides one square foot of center space for each City resident. The total square footage of a particular facility would then be used to determine the service area for that facility.

School District Recreation Facilities

The Long Beach Unified School District operates and maintains recreation facilities throughout the City as part of their elementary, middle, and high schools. While these facilities are intended to primarily support the recreational needs of the students at these schools, some of these facilities are open and accessible to the public during non-school hours. Using some of these facilities may require members of the public to go through closed but unlocked gates, or step over chains across openings.

Recreation facilities at schools, that are accessible to the public, have been included in the analysis of service levels and needs. Recreational facilities at schools where no public access is allowed are not included.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds provide important basic recreational opportunities for families with young children by supplying an appropriate place for children to expend youthful energy. In addition, they also

serve as a place for social interaction to occur between community members.

The Department currently provides 52 playground facilities throughout the City. Twenty additional playgrounds are owned by the Long Beach Unified School District, and are accessible to the residents of Long Beach. Based on the 2000 census population, this provides one playground for every 6,410 residents. As the following exhibit shows, this level is below the target service level of one playground for every 5,000 residents.

To meet target service levels related to playgrounds, an additional 20 playgrounds are needed to meet current needs. An additional 25 playgrounds are needed to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

Exhibit 26

Analysis of Current Playground Service Levels Compared to Target Service Levels	
Current Number	52 LBPRM / 20 LBUSD
Current Service Level	1 per 6,410 residents
Target Service Level	1 per 5,000 residents
Additional Need - 2000	20
Additional Need - 2010	25
<i>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</i>	

Ideally, the City would have a playground within one-quarter mile of every resident. The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's current playgrounds, and the areas that are served within one-quarter mile of each of these playgrounds. As this exhibit shows, there are substantial areas that are not being adequately served.

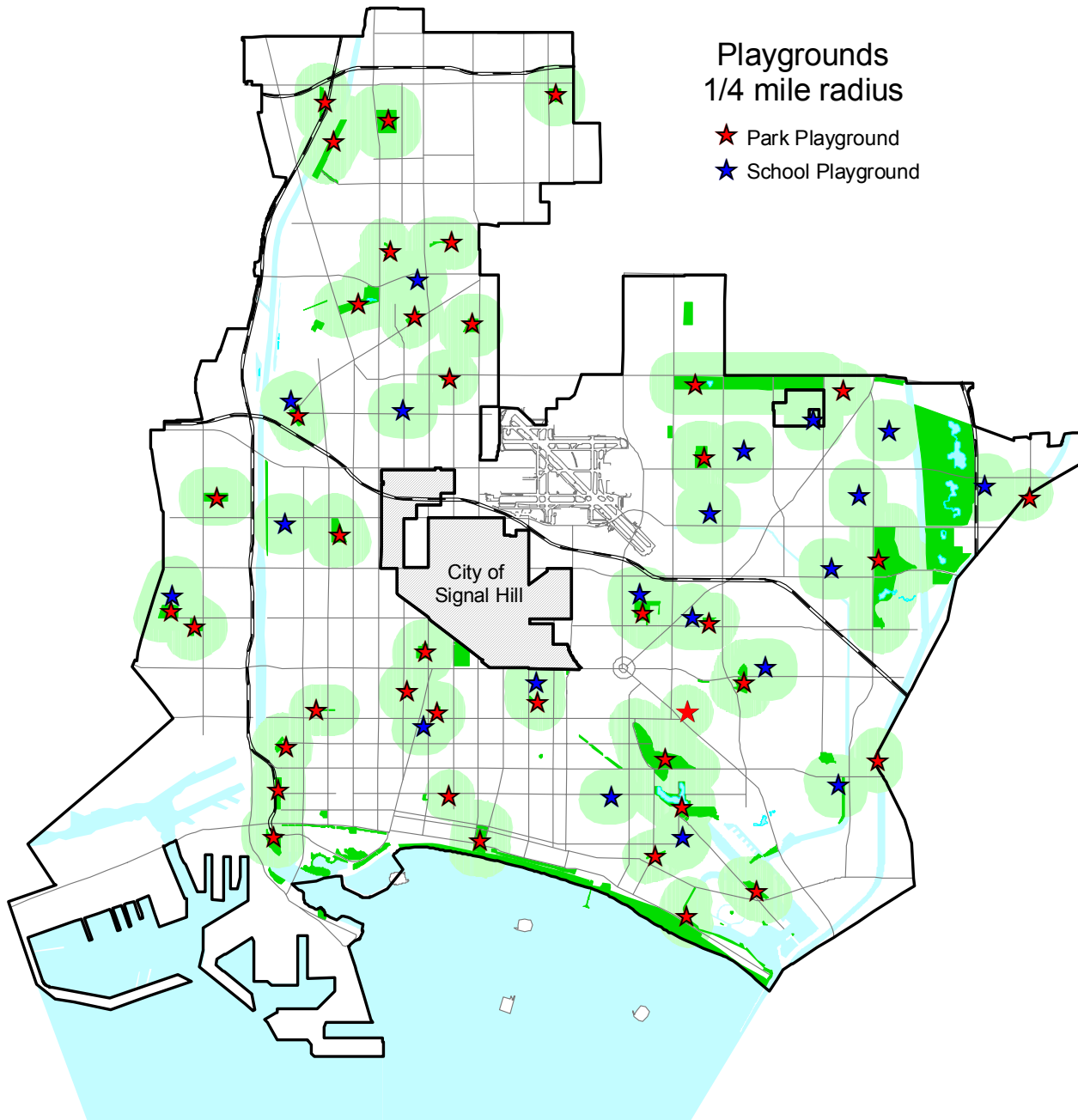


Exhibit 27

LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE

Areas Served by Playgrounds

Areas Within One-Fourth Mile of a Playground



Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas

Swimming Pools

Swimming pools provide opportunities for relaxation, competitive achievement,

development of water rescue and swimming skills, and the ability to cool off on hot summer days. Long Beach currently has four swimming pools throughout the City. (Although the Long



Beach Unified School District has swimming pools, they are not generally accessible to the residents of Long Beach.) Based on the 2000 census population, this provides one swimming pool for every 115,381 residents.

As the following exhibit shows, this level is far below the target service level of one swimming pool for every 50,000 residents. To meet target service levels related to swimming pools, an additional five pools are needed to meet current needs. An additional six pools are needed to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

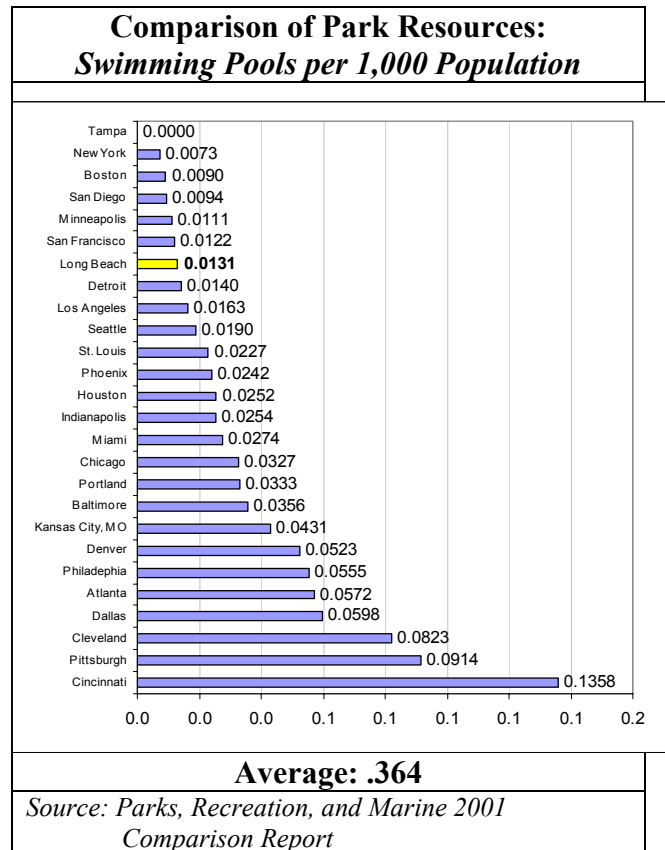
Exhibit 28

Analysis of Current Swimming Pool Service Levels Compared to Target Service Levels	
Current Number	4 LBPRM
Current Service Level	1 per 115,381 residents
Target Service Level	1 per 50,000 residents
Additional Need - 2000	5
Additional Need - 2010	6
Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)	

We also compared the number of swimming pools in Long Beach with the number of swimming pools in other large cities.

As the following exhibit shows, Long Beach has substantially fewer swimming pools than other large cities. Long Beach has .013 swimming pools per 1,000 population, substantially below the average of .036 for the cities compared.

Exhibit 29

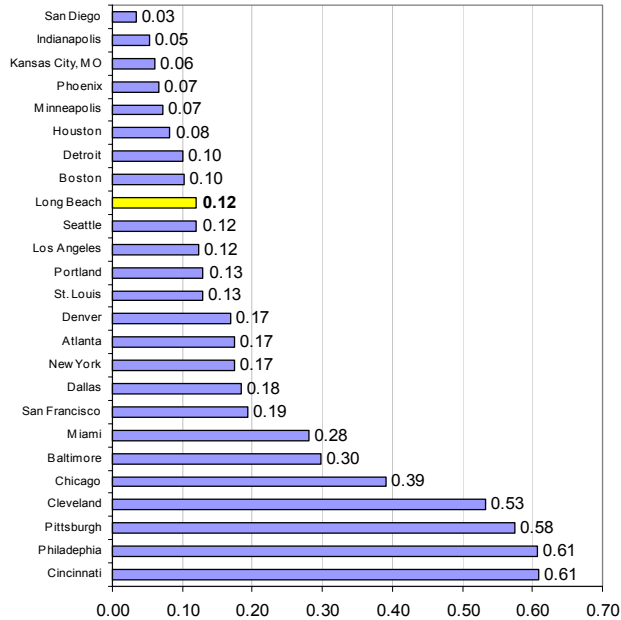


As the following exhibit shows, the number of swimming pools per square mile is also substantially lower, at .11 per square mile for Long Beach, compared to the average of .27 for the cities compared.



Exhibit 30

**Comparison of Park Resources:
Swimming Pools per Square Mile**



Average: .2678

*Source: Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001
Comparison Report*

Ideally, the City would have a swimming pool within one mile of every resident. The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's current swimming pools, and the areas that are served within one mile of each of these pools. As this exhibit shows, there are substantial areas that are not being adequately served.